

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-11 MC-02 AID-20 L-03 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8567

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 10420

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ID

SUBJECT: OV-10 AIRCRAFT FOR INDONESIA

REFS: STATE 156506 AND 171728

1. NEITHER HANKAM NOR ANY OTHER ORGAN OF THE GOI HAS HERETOFORE INDICATED TO US THE SLIGHTEST INTEREST IN ACQUIRING THE OV-10. SO FAR AS WE KNOW THE ONLY TIME THE OV-10 AIRCRAFT WAS EVER EVEN MENTIONED CAME IN A LOW-LEVEL MILITARY CONVERSATION BETWEEN A DLG OFFICER AND A GOI AIR FORCE OFFICER DISCUSSING FORWARD AIR CONTROL AIRCRAFT. IN THIS CONVERSATION THE OV-10 WAS MENTIONED AS AN AIRCRAFT WHICH COULD PERFORM THE SAME SORT OF GROUND SUPPORT AS THE UH-1H -- WHICH THE GOI HAD BEEN INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING.

2. ACCORDING TO DLG, THE OV-10 IS A SOPHISTICATED, EXPENSIVE-TO-OPERATE, TWO-ENGINE, HIGH-WING, TURBO-PROP AIRCRAFT WHICH THE INDONESIAN ARMED FORCES DO NOT NEED AT THIS TIME. IF SUCH AN AIRCRAFT WERE NEEDED, THERE ARE OTHERS AVAILABLE WHICH COULD PERFORM THE SAME FUNCTIONS AND WHICH WOULD BE CHEAPER TO BUY AND OPERATE.

3. IF GOI WERE TO ACQUIRE "16 TO 18 OF THIS STOL AIRCRAFT AT ABOUT ONE MILLION DOLLARS PER COPY" THAT WOULD BE ONLY PART OF THE PACKAGE. ALSO NEEDED WOULD BE CONCURRENT
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SPARE PARTS, FOLLOW-ON SPARE PARTS, FOLLOW-ON SUPPORT,

OUTFITTING OF GROUND SHOPS FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE AIRCRAFT, ACQUISITION OF SPECIAL SUPPORT EQUIPMENT AND A TRAINING PROGRAM. FURTHERMORE, GOI PROBABLY WOULD NOT WANT THE AIRCRAFT WITHOUT ARMAMENT FOR IT, E.G., MINI-GUNS, ROCKETS, BOMBS, ETC. TOTAL COST OF THE PACKAGE MIGHT EASILY RUN TO \$25 MILLION OR MORE INITIALLY.

4. WE ARE UNABLE TO ASSESS IMPACT SUCH A SALE MIGHT HAVE ON GOI FISCAL POLICIES. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE IMPACT COULD ONLY BE NEGATIVE. CONSIDERATIONS DEPARTMENT NOTED IN PARA 5 OF ITS 156506 TO JAKARTA ON THE SUBJECT OF SMALL ARMS FACILITY WOULD ALSO APPLY TO THIS SUBJECT.

5. WE BELIEVE NORTH AMERICAN ROCKWELL SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE. FOR OUR PART, WE DO NOT INTEND TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE GOI. WE WOULD EXPECT, ON THE BASIS OF PAST EXPERIENCE, THAT IF HANKAM WANTED TO LOOK INTO THE QUESTION OF ACQUISITION OF THE OV-10 IT WOULD APPROACH US TO GET THE FACTS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF BUYING IT THROUGH FMS OR MAP. WE THINK THAT HANKAM AFTER AN EXAMINATION OF THE FACTS WOULD REJECT THE IDEA OF ACQUISITION OF THE OV-10, AT LEAST IN THE IMMEDIATE TIME FRAME.
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